



SPARK GAP

Vol. 41, Issue 1, January 2024 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

On Our MARC:

Welcome to 2024 everyone! We had a successful and fun 2023. The January MARC meeting will be held this Saturday, January 20 and will feature a presentation by Bob Burns, AK9R, our ARRL Indiana Section Manager. The meeting will begin at 8:00 AM at the Johnson County REMC building in Franklin. The last weekend of January will be the ARRL Winter Field Day. Contact Kyle Burns, AD9CR if you wish to participate with the group. Next month after our February club meeting we will hold a special event station (SES) for the MARC 40th Anniversary. We will set up radio(s) and antennae at the REMC building and operate after the meeting until about 5 pm. The SES will continue Holiday Style for a week so feel free to operate from home using the club call, W9MID starting Saturday 2/17. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting this Saturday.

Tim, WC9G

President, Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

CLUB DUES FOR 2024

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is \$25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2024.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

Kyle Burns Appointed ARES Emergency Coordinator

Notes by James Adams, KB9JMU

Kyle Burns, AD9CR, has been appointed ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator for Johnson County. Notified of the appointment on January 8, Kyle takes over the position from Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, who stepped down in September. Bob had been our ARES EC for 20 years, taking on that role in 2003.

Recently, Kyle was the featured presenter at the October MARC Monthly Meeting speaking on Johnson County's Emergency/AUXCOMM preparedness and amateur radio's role in that public service. Kyle noted that operator education, training and field practice contribute to our club's developing AUXCOMM role in Central Indiana.

With the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse passing directly over Franklin on April 8, many emergency and first responder groups are preparing for mobilization that weekend. Kyle has been involved with the MARC AUXCOMM group for several months, planning for that event with the Johnson County emergency management team.

Kyle also serves MARC as Field Day Coordinator, organizing the club's activation for the upcoming Winter Field Day on January 27-28.



Kyle, 2023 Club Picnic arriving with gear.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

KB9BVN – Brian Murrey

N9EJR - Jim Williams

KB9UJE - Matt Payne

KC9ZMV - Cliff Whitrock

WB9EZL - Earl King

KC9WLL - Joseph Krebsbach

KC5GHM - Josh Kiilu

K9PDI - Keith Cohoon

KD9REP - Michael Straub



The Johnson County Task Force planning for the 2024 Solar Eclipse April 8 met yesterday. Stephanie, the Johnson County Emergency Management Director has requested Names, cell phone numbers, and email addresses of our group. This doesn't need to be the final volunteers, but needs to be included in a binder for the Command Post leadership.

Are you willing to help provide emergency communication for this event? Can I provide your information (name, cell phone number, and email address) to the Task Force? We can finalize personnel after the next meeting, but they need a list now.

Reminder: For those who want to participate, please work on finishing up the four ICS courses, 100, 200, 700, and 800 if you have not completed them already.

Here is a brief summary of the pertinent information for us:

The task force is still building the plan, and expects to have a draft by the beginning of February.

Communication Plan:

Monday (day of event) is the biggest concern. We need Ham Radio Personnel to be on call for Saturday and Sunday in case of a large incident that could cause normal trunked communications to go down, or be overloaded. Times are yet to be finalized, but possibly 7 am Monday until the event is complete.

Verizon has declined setting up portable cell towers and supplemental equipment...

We should know locations of Command Posts and expected times for us to staff them at the end of January.

There will be 4 Command Posts, one in each county quadrant (likely at Fire Houses) PLUS the Training Room at the Sheriff's Department will be used as the County EOC. We need Ham Radio Operators at each of these sites, ideally 2 per site. We also should have (2) Operators in our Radio Room EOC to help coordinate.

Stephanie, Director of Emergency Management wants 2 WebEOC users to be at her main EOC (the Sheriff's Dept. Training Room), specifically Jack, W8ISH, and Bob, KC9NJM. She wants us close at hand to answer questions, provide contact with the State EOC via WebEOC, interface with those in the field, if needed, etc...

The Trafalger FD has been identified as one Command Post. Law Enforcement (Lieutenants and/or Sergeants most likely) and Fire Supervisors will be who we report to at each Command Post.

The State is not providing any resources...

Tow trucks and Fuel tankers will be deployed to specific locations for faster response times.

EMS Concerns:

WRT FD will have 3 ambulances with a 4th available if needed. Prefer to use only for emergencies, not minor injuries.

Public Info:

News is going out through Social Media, News agencies, the Journal, and KORN radio.

Next meeting is scheduled for 1/30 where a draft Incident Action Plan should be provided.

Tim

WC9G

President, Mid-State Amateur Radio Club



WINTER FIELD DAY 2024

JANUARY 27 – 28, 2024

WFD is always on the last full weekend of January, beginning at 19:00 UTC on Saturday and running through 18:59 on Sunday.

You can operate on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands and all bands above 50 MHz.

To be considered for scoring, all participants must submit their log entries before 11:59 UTC on March 1st. All logs must be submitted in the Cabrillo format and contain the proper exchange data. Late entries cannot be accepted.

WFD participation and results are tallied and posted on the website for future reference. Our goal is to have logs scored by May 30th and posted the first week of June.

For more information about Winter Field Day 2024 check out their web site:

<https://winterfieldday.org/>

Contact Kyle Burns, AD9CR if you would like to participate.

Email: **kyle@kburns.us**

Wreaths Across America via Ham Radio

As Christmas wreaths were placed upon thousands of veterans' graves at Arlington National Cemetery and other veteran cemeteries across the nation by Wreaths Across America (WAA) on December 16, Maine Ham Radio Society (MHRS) members were living up to the WAA motto -- Remember, Honor, and Teach -- during their special event on the HF bands.

MHRS is an ARRL Special Service Club and honors the staff and volunteers who provide this moving tribute to America's fallen soldiers each December. The club was issued the call sign W1A for the special event and made 348 contacts. MHRS Vice President Bob Ustruck, KF5CFU, took part in the event and said that the response on the air was overwhelming.

"I had a pileup pretty much the whole time that I operated as W1A, and everyone was grateful that we were supporting Wreaths Across America," said Ustruck.

Several hams who contacted W1A, including Don Kocsis, WA8TWM, in Painesville, Ohio, noted that they were also participating in wreath ceremonies at their local veterans' cemeteries. MHRS President Phil Duggan, N1EP, said one ham on the HF bands was looking forward to receiving the QSL card so he could give it to a Gold Star mother.



Maurry Mills, W1FWS, operated the event for the second year in a row. "Many of the operators I contacted were already aware of Wreaths Across America, and all were thankful for our special event operation," he said.

Brenda Duggan, N1ZPV, was thrilled to participate. Her late father, Harold West, served under General George S. Patton in WWII and was wounded during combat.

The majority of the contacts were made on 20-, 40-, and 80-meter bands, although club members called CQ on most of the non-WARC bands. The Maine Ham Radio Society plans to continue this annual tribute every December for the near future.

By Phil Duggan, N1EP



CONTACT

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www.arrl.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARRL is New Publisher of Gordon West, WB6NOA

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has become the new publisher of the Amateur Radio License Preparation books and related resources authored by Gordon West, WB6NOA. Gordon West's popular books, classes, and audio courses have been a mainstay of amateur radio licensing for over 40 years.

Current editions of Gordon West's popular license prep books will be available from ARRL and ARRL publication dealers soon:

- *Technician Class FCC Element 2 Amateur Radio License Preparation*, 10th Edition 2022-2026
- *General Class FCC Element 3 Amateur Radio License Preparation*, 11th Edition 2023-2027
- *Extra Class FCC Element 4 Amateur Radio License Preparation*, 8th Edition 2020-2024

The books, including future editions, will continue to be authored by Gordon West with Technical Editor Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ. Nichols is a regular contributor to ARRL publications, and has written several ARRL books. He has collaborated on the Gordon West books since 2013.

Gordon West Named ARRL National Instructor

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, has also announced that Gordon West has been named ARRL National Instructor. Goodgame leads ARRL programs that benefit amateur radio volunteer instructors and professional educators. "Gordon West will serve as the ambassador for the new ARRL National Instructor Program," said Goodgame. "The program will place greater emphasis on connecting prospective hams with opportunities to find ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs and classes. The National Instructor Program will also support ARRL volunteer instructors with new resources for teaching amateur radio courses and for developing licensees."

About Gordon West, WB6NOA | Gordon West has been an amateur radio operator for more than 60 years, holding the top-level license of Amateur Extra, call sign WB6NOA. He also holds an FCC Commercial Operator License, the First Class General Radiotelephone Certificate with Radar Endorsement. A frequent guest and presenter at ham radio conventions, West is well-known by the amateur radio community for his unique educational style and commitment to developing instructors. His work has benefited thousands of new amateur radio licensees. He is an ARRL Life Member, and has earned many recognitions including ARRL Instructor of the Year and Dayton Amateur Radio Association 2006 Amateur of the Year. The Gordon West Ambassador of the Year Award is presented annually by Orlando HamCation® to an amateur who has made outstanding contributions to the amateur radio community.

About ARRL | ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® was founded in 1914 as The American Radio Relay League, and is a noncommercial organization of radio amateurs. ARRL numbers within its ranks the vast majority of active radio amateurs (or "hams") in the US and has a proud history of achievement as the standard-bearer in promoting and protecting amateur radio. ARRL supports members with opportunities to discover radio, to develop new skills, and to serve their local communities. For more information about ARRL and amateur radio, visit www.arrl.org.

INDIANA HAMFESTS 2024

Hendricks County Hamfest

Start Date: 02/10/2024

End Date: 02/10/2024

Location: Hendricks County 4h Fairgrounds and Conference Center

1900 E. Main Street

Danville, IN 46122

Website: <http://n9hc.org>

Sponsor: Hendricks Country Amateur Radio Society

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.015 + 600 88.5 CTCSS

Public Contact: Bill Pfaffenberger , AE9R

388 Pinedale Drive Avon, IN 46123

Phone: 317-407-1988

Email: HAMFEST@n9hc.org

Cabin Fever Hamfest

Start Date: 02/24/2024

End Date: 02/24/2024

Location: LaPorte Civic Auditorium

1001 Ridge St.

LaPorte, IN

Website: <http://www.lpcarc.org>

Sponsor: LaPorte Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.610 131.8

Public Contact: Richard Oberle , KC9DJP

1978 E. 500 S. LaPorte, IN 46350

Phone: 219-448-0090

Email: cabinfeverhamfest@gmail.com

Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Start Date: 02/24/2024

End Date: 02/24/2024

Location: Dugger Comm. Building

840 Hicum St.

Dugger, IN 47848

Sponsor: Hopefully (amateur accessories)

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.775 pl 136.5

Public Contact: Jon Olvey , KD9AMN

7034 E. Cass Park St. Sullivan, IN 47882

Phone: 812-564-6461

Email: jonolvey@gmail.com

WVARA Spring 2024 Hamfest

Start Date: 03/30/2024

End Date: 03/30/2024

Location: Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds

6550 North State Road 59

Brazil, IN 47834

Website: https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest_2024.pdf

Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA, Inc.

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.685 MHz, 151.4 Hz

Public Contact: Kevin Berlen , K9HX

308 W. 4th St. Clay City, IN 47841

Phone: 812-239-9140

Email: kevin.berlen@gmail.com

Auburn Hamfest

Start Date: 07/20/2024

End Date: 07/20/2024

Location: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum

1600 Wayne Street

Auburn, IN 46706

Website: <http://w9ou.org>

Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.015 with 141.3 tone

Public Contact: John Chalmers , W9GOO

P.O. Box 145 Auburn, IN 46706

Phone: 260-927-5746

Email: W9OU@arrl.net

Elkhart East Hamfest, ARRL Central Division Convention

Start Date: 08/03/2024

End Date: 08/03/2024

Location: Northern Indiana Event Center

21565 Executive Parkway

Elkhart, IN 46514

Website: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.330+ / 131.8

Public Contact: Dewey Thrash , K9DEW

53464 Baywater Place Bristol, IN 46507

Phone: 574-370-2436

Email: elkharthamfest@gmail.com

Hendricks County Tailgate Fest

Start Date: 08/10/2024

End Date: 08/10/2024

Location: Avon United Methodist Church

6850 E. US Hwy 36

Avon, IN 46123

Sponsor: Ham Emergency Radio Operations

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.130 MHz PL-Tone 88.5

Public Contact: Kenneth A Kayler , KC9SQD

3090 Clover Dr. Plainfield, IN 46168

Phone: 317-874-7068

Email: kc9sqd425@gmail.com

ARANCI Hamfest

Start Date: 08/11/2024

End Date: 08/11/2024

Location: Lake Village Community Center

9728 North 300 West

Lake Village, IN 46349

Sponsor: ARANCI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.330 pl 131.8

Public Contact: Michael Swiader , KA9E

PO Box 215 Lake Village, IN 46349

Phone: 815-409-5070

Email: ka9e@yahoo.com

Hoosier Hills Hamfest

Start Date: 10/12/2024

End Date: 10/12/2024

Location: Lawrence County 4-H Fairgrounds

11265 US-50

Bedford, IN 47421

Website: <https://hoosierhillshamfest.com/>

Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.73- PL/107.2

Public Contact: Tim Wray , KB9SNL

PO Box 891 Bedford, IN 47421

Phone: 812-675-6733

Email: bwrs1996@gmail.com



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM** of each month
at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:

Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Jack Parker – W8ISH
Club P.I.O. : Rhonda Curtis – WS9H

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.



Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

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